



THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

30 November 2011

The Honorable Michael Turner
Chairman, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Turner,

Thank you for your recent letter and continued interest in maintaining a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent force—a capability vital to the national security of the United States. We recognize that senior officers' professional military opinions are important to Congress and understand the responsibility of such trust. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) highlighted the need to improve capabilities critically neglected in recent years. We concur with the goals and capabilities outlined in that document, which will help to ensure long term confidence in the Nation's nuclear deterrent force.

Last year's nuclear consensus endorsed the continued need to sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent for as long as nuclear weapons exist. Doing so requires we address increasingly urgent sustainment and modernization needs across the nuclear enterprise. Our aging weapons need life extension programs, and the Triad's delivery systems require similar attention. Furthermore, the highly specialized industrial base on which we depend needs safe and modern facilities with adequate capabilities and capacity. In order to scientifically verify the safety, security, and effectiveness of today's weapons without a return to underground testing and to dismantle unneeded weapons, we must be able to attract the brightest young minds to this national security mission.

We fully recognize that the nuclear enterprise faces a sizable, long-term sustainment and modernization challenge at the same time our Nation grapples with tremendous fiscal trials. Every public servant must carefully steward taxpayer funds, and the choices we make today will have far reaching impacts. We appreciate your support and look forward to working together to secure the deterrent's long-term future.

Sincerely,

C. ROBERT KEHLER
General, U.S. Air Force
Commander
United States Strategic Command

JAMES A. WINNEFELD, JR.
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Vice Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

Reply To:
USSTRATCOM/J0CC
901 SAC BLVD STE 2A1
OFFUTT AFB NE 68113-6000

Honorable John F. Tierney, Chairman
House Oversight & Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security & Foreign Relations
B-371C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tierney,

I understand that as part of your oversight responsibilities, your Subcommittee seeks a greater understanding of our nation's missile defense efforts. United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) is a global, warfighting combatant command responsible for a wide variety of global missions, including strategic deterrence, space operations, and defense of the global information grid. As the joint warfighter also charged with advocating for regional Combatant Command missile defense capabilities, I wish to offer my unqualified endorsement on behalf of the men and women in uniform, of the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) present and future research and acquisition efforts. The actions of Lt Gen Obering and all those working at MDA have greatly facilitated the rapid development and fielding of integrated ballistic missile defense capabilities alleviating theater, regional, and global friendly force defense needs.

The proliferation of ballistic missile technologies and weapons represents a real and ever-increasing 21st Century challenge. Numerous nations possess theater ballistic missiles, and some are also pursuing long range capabilities which may ultimately hold our Homeland at risk. The United States cannot afford to wait for forces hostile to our nation to combine ballistic missile and WMD technology.

The Missile Defense Agency has set out on a block approach to meeting near-term Combatant Commander threats while planning for our future defense—across the boost, midcourse, and terminal phases. MDA has worked diligently to include and involve warfighters in their efforts and as the end-users, we have benefited substantially from this inclusive approach. I endorse their approach and have the utmost confidence in our collective ability to adequately represent warfighter priorities. Over the past four years, MDA has worked with the other Combatant Commands to test and field a limited capability to defend the homeland against the North Korean threat. A test record of 34 of 42 terminal and mid-course intercepts in the atmosphere and space since 2001 demonstrates the efficacy of our collective efforts. Missile Defense is an integral part of the spectrum of deterrence designed to defend the United States and our allies against ballistic missile attacks. I strongly support the mission and goals of the Missile Defense Agency and endorse the requirement for an integrated BMDS to defend our people and the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin P. Chilton", is positioned above the printed name.

KEVIN P. CHILTON
General, USAF
Commander



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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0525

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), Section 242, directed the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command within 180 days of enactment to jointly submit a "Report and Cost Assessment of Options for Ohio-class Replacement Ballistic Missile Submarine" to the Congressional Defense Committees. This unclassified memo summarizes our assessment. The attached classified annex contains our detailed analysis.

We evaluated four different options for the OHIO Replacement (OR) fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) program with consideration to the ability to meet nuclear employment planning guidance, ability to satisfy at-sea deployment requirements, flexibility to respond to changes in postulated threats and the strategic environment, and affordability. Of the assessed force structures, only the program of record, 12 SSBNs with 16 missile tubes each, satisfies the requirements to meet our strategic mission goals and objectives.

The changing strategic and fiscal environment demands a renewed emphasis on thoughtful risk management across the nuclear enterprise. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the sea-based leg of the nuclear Triad as part of the commitment to the safety, security and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent force.

Sincerely,

C. Robert Kehler
General, USAF
Commander

Ray Mabus

Attachment: As stated

Copy to:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), Section 242, directed the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command within 180 days of enactment to jointly submit a "Report and Cost Assessment of Options for Ohio-class Replacement Ballistic Missile Submarine" to the Congressional Defense Committees. This unclassified memo summarizes our assessment. The attached classified annex contains our detailed analysis.

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Sincerely,

C. Robert Kehler
General, USAF
Commander

Ray Mabus

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Copy to:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1102

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), Section 242, directed the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command within 180 days of enactment to jointly submit a "Report and Cost Assessment of Options for Ohio-class Replacement Ballistic Missile Submarine" to the Congressional Defense Committees. This unclassified memo summarizes our assessment. The attached classified annex contains our detailed analysis.

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Sincerely,

C. Robert Kehler
General, USAF
Commander

Ray Mabus

Attachment: As stated

Copy to:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1705

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), Section 242, directed the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command within 180 days of enactment to jointly submit a "Report and Cost Assessment of Options for Ohio-class Replacement Ballistic Missile Submarine" to the Congressional Defense Committees. This unclassified memo summarizes our assessment. The attached classified annex contains our detailed analysis.

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Sincerely,

C. Robert Kehler
General, USAF
Commander

Ray Mabius

Attachment: As stated

Copy to:
The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member

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